

Not only Jesus Christ but your
 dear love beside who will think
 'ye have done it unto me'. He
 'poor humanity' whom he told
 you he was trying to help, ~~is~~
 not only the people who cannot
 buy bread and shoes, but the
 people who cannot buy content
 and happiness because their
 every day lives are half worthless.
 And whether you work by your
 fingers that do pretty things for
 people to see, or whether you
 work by your beautiful gift
 of poetry - or by your own
 most lovely presence that
 keeps most people up to the

A selfish grief Wednesday evening
 My own dear Darling
 I don't believe

you were half so sad when you
 wrote this little letter a. I was
 when I read it - Dear Annie
 I know that life is very hard
 for you and that the love and
 help that used to make it
 so much easier seem to have
 gone out of it. But it is not
 all wrong, and it does not hold
 you back and crush you down
 unless you make it so, for
 we both believe that God
 sent this loneliness and pain

2
into your life only to bless you
and bring you closer to him
and to the dear one whom you
love best - I can't bear to think
of your sorrow, I can't bear to
think that everything seems
so blank and dreadful to you
I can't bear not to have you
happy among the things that
were so lovingly planned and
brought together for your comfort
and happiness. I ought not
to be so dear love, and I do
long to have you outgrow this
kind of pain and misery that
will not let you forget that
you are hurt and lonely.

3
It seems to me that the only thing
to do is to say I am hurt and
my heart aches, but God keeps me
here in the midst of the empty
things that used to belong to my
happiness, and I must live the
old life alone, and put all my
love and thoughtfulness and
helpfulness into it, for the sake
of whoever comes now, instead
of for the sake of one only and
for the sake of one only - I think
nothing would please him more
than to have you making other
people happy just exactly as
you have been doing since you
came to Manchester. It is

to you always in this world
 as they will always in the next.
 - And I love you and hold you
 close and cannot do without
 you - I will stay with ^{you} always when
 I can for it seems more and
 more lovely, and more strange;
 however dear other places and
 people may be, to be away from
 you. I think it is meant we
 should help each other and love
 each other more and more. Oh
 my dear dear darling, don't shut
 yourself out of the sunshine of
 life - it was only the shut windows
 of the city ~~at~~ which the morning
 light could not go in - ~~and which~~

best level that is in them, or
 by letting them come into the
 influence of the hospitality
 which delights every body who
 knows it - you are going about
 doing good - Don't think
 about next summer dear
 darling, don't think about
 tomorrow even, but make the
 days grow lovelier one by one
 because you do the tasks God
 sets you, as best you can -
 Don't say my heart aches and
 I am watched, but say I am
 going to be happy by and by and
 have my own again, and God

6
is teaching me as I wait. Don't
say that the time is long and
bitterly hard, but only that this
is a short night between two
blessed days, and I will
not be always awake to the
thought of my own sorrow and
get frightened in the dark of
uncertainty - Other people have
sorrows that are full of shame
and misery, and mine is a
sorrow that is like a night
fall of stars and I see a
great light in my darkness
to lead me and show me

73
the way — Yes, dear love
I know you were certain of
all this before - but I can't
help saying it again - The kind
of happiness is gone, but it is
to make place for a better
one - "not as the world gives
give I unto you" - and so my
dear darling, I pray God that
you may find His peace wherever
you are, and may not wish
either for the old dear days
that are past or for the
Heaven that is to come because
you hold both and they belong
soj-af-09

- I could not help saying all this, but after it is said I only stop to think. Oh if I could go to her and put my arms around her! But it is something more than that which you want; something that no human love can give, but only God's love and goodness and your own faith and bravery — When I see that you do not feel so lonely if I am there, and then it is all worse than ever and lonelier, when I am away I know that my love is not

enough for you after all, though
 I would do anything for you
 and I love you with all the
 love that I can give - It is my
 great sorrow too because it is
 yours - but we will try to say: yes
 I am not happy, but I can
 still make others happy and
 I must do my work lovingly
 whatever it is, and so I shall
 know what Heaven is better
 and better as the days go on.

Good night dear and God bless
 you and comfort you - Yours
 always and always
 J. O. J.